



PRINCETON
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
of the
PRINCETON SEWER OPERATING COMMITTEE

August 4, 2021

The meeting of the Princeton Sewer Operating Committee (PSOC) was convened at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 4, 2021 via Virtual Meeting/Zoom Conference. D. Goldfarb opened the meeting in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Section 5, Chapter 231, P.L. 275. In conformance with the requirements of the Law, Notice was provided of the date, time and location of this regular meeting by posting a copy of the adopted Schedule of Regular Meetings in Monument Hall and Witherspoon Building and by mailing copies to the Trenton Times, Princeton Packet, Town Topics and by filing a copy in the Office of the Clerk of Princeton. Adequate notice was provided to the public and to all parties concerned.

PRESENT: David Goldfarb, Valerie Haynes, Eve Niedergang
ALSO PRESENT: Andrew Filippi, Sewer Design Engineer; Dominick Itzi, Sewer Operations Manager; Jim Purcell, Assistant Engineer; Janice Most, Secretary
ABSENT: Dan Van Mater, Public Works Director
PUBLIC: Richard Rein

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Valerie Haynes moved to approve the Minutes of the June 30, 2021 meeting.
D. Goldfarb seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

No amendments to the Agenda.

Long Range Plan for the Design and Reconstruction of all Pump Stations

D. Itzi stated the RFP for the design phase is complete and waiting for review by the Sewer Design Engineer.

Discussion: will have a better costs analysis once the design specifications are complete; there is funding for the design; too soon to speak to the Infrastructure Bill Congress passed, D. Itzi will keep watch; what federal money is best spent where while keeping in mind infrastructure addresses sewers also; federal stimulus money cannot be used for sewers.

D. Itzi stated that the alarm system is being upgraded to a SCADA system; Verizon was difficult to deal with concerning issues we were having. SCADA is a cellular broad base system vs. Verizon which is copper wired; D. Itzi presented the specifics on the capabilities of the SCADA system.

Discussion: cost would be approximately \$5,800 per station to upgrade; D. Itzi met with the CFO on funding which is available; Crooked Tree and Rosedale stations would be the first to switch over; the new system can include flow metering if needed; communications and alarm system are priorities.

Long Range Plan for Sewer Repairs and Maintenance

D. Goldfarb stated he made the presentation to Mayor and Council in May 2021. A meeting for funding for 2022 needs to set for September 2021.

Infiltration and Inflow (I/I Program)

A. Filippi stated that a kick off meeting was held with the design engineering firm for Mini System 35.

Discussion: taking ownership of portion of laterals in Right-of-Way as long as cleanout is at the property line; construction projects can install cleanouts; assessment costs to property owners; look at recent past practices to see if cleanout in Right-of-Way does not get assessed.

D. Goldfarb asked about the breach of pipe on Jefferson Avenue.

D. Itzi stated that PSE&G was installing a gas line that required going under the pipe. Unknown to PSE&G the top of the pipe was ripped off when backfilled. The backup occurred when sediment clogged. D. Itzi described the most likely scenario for this to happen.

Discussion: there was a mark out for the work at the end of June; this is the second time in one month for this type of issue – first Verizon, now PSE&G; this was a 10” pipe with heavy flow; can we require inspections when utilities back fill – this will be difficult with staff and volume of utility work and without an open trench it is difficult to inspect;

can we keep track of work locations when done and inspect ground and manhole for extraneous flow – again, this will be difficult with staff and volume of utility work and without an open trench it is difficult to inspect; can utility companies take photos before backfilling – issue is photo angles can look good when they are not; depth and configuration of main vs. work depth – this was a unique situation as PSE&G needed to go deeper than the sewer main.

D. Itzi stated the issue concerning Verizon: In July there was a motor vehicle accident at Hamilton and North Harrison; Verizon jumped to replace the telephone pole; we completed two mark outs -

our mark outs were right over the pipe; New Jersey American Water mark out was six feet off of their water main; Verizon wanted the pole moved first hit was over our pipe, second hit was the water main.

Draft Ordinance Chapter 34 – Proposed Update to Sewer Connect/Disconnect/Repair Regulations and Grease Trap Regulations

A. Filippi stated that edits were made from comments during the last meeting and he and Legal continue to work on draft wording.

Discussion: instead of connection fees reference State Statutes; continue with review of draft Ordinance to coordinate into final draft; issues: sewer service charges; create minimum sewer service charge use value of 20 ccf for minimum water usage or add to all accounts or create minimum assumed usage; how New Jersey American water charges for size of connection and volume of water used; sewer fees equal collection and treatment – collection not proportional to flow – treatment is more proportional; do all users get assessed or set a minimum \$130.00 per year fee and adjust according to usage, which would produce a fixed fee plus variable for guaranteed revenue stream; sewer rates this year will be substantial; re-evaluate sewer rates yearly; sending separate sewer bills not attached to the tax bills; social justice impact – smallest users will pay more – this impacts the most vulnerable; sewer lateral section still in revision, A. Filippi describes revisions; D. Goldfarb indicated wording to be used in Section 34.30.

D. Goldfarb suggested that to make better use of meeting time identify issues and include a list of items to discuss at the next meeting and wordsmithing can be completed at a later date.

Public Comment

No public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. via Virtual Meeting/Zoom.

Respectively Submitted,

Janice Most, Secretary
Princeton Sewer Operating Committee

Adopted: September 1, 2021